



Fact Sheet

U.S. Department of Agriculture
Foreign Agricultural Service

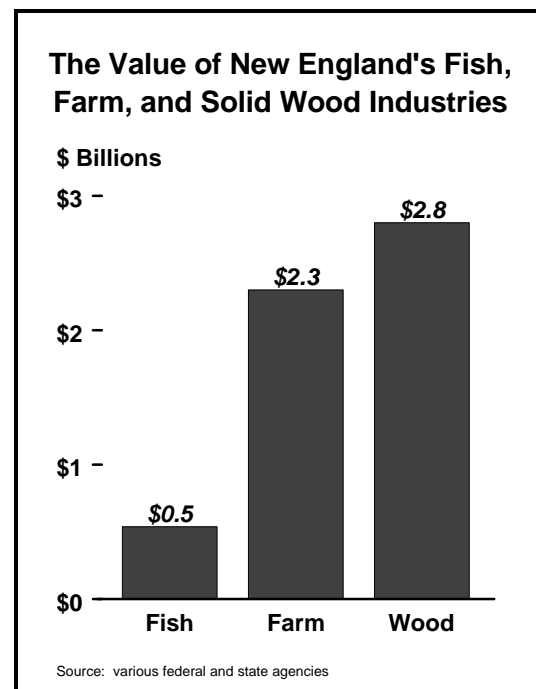
WTO and Agriculture **What's at Stake for New England?**

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From Connecticut to Maine, New England produces solid wood, fish, and some agricultural products that are exported worldwide. In 1998, the region's total cash receipts from farming reached \$2.3 billion. Wood product shipments totaled \$2.8 billion in 1996, and commercial fish landings were \$537 million in 1998. These industries are important to New England's economy. They create jobs on farms, in mills, and at ports, and also support jobs in related sectors, such as food processing, storage, and transportation.

The region's agricultural exports were estimated at \$203 million in 1998. The top five exports are tobacco leaf, apples, vegetables, dairy products, and processed foods. Solid wood exports directly departing New England ports totaled \$282 million in 1998. The total for fishery products was \$183 million.

World demand for agricultural, fish, and wood products is increasing, but so is competition among suppliers. If New England industries are to compete successfully for export opportunities in the 21st century, they need *fair trade* and *fair access* to growing global markets.



New England Benefits From Trade Agreements

- # Under the Uruguay Round, major U.S. trading partners are reducing their tariffs 28 percent on average for wood products.
- # An important apple growing region, New England states benefit under the U.S.-Israel Free Trade Agreement as Israel expands access to its apple market.